

Lagos govt shuts private school, arrests proprietor, teachers, others

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- As 2-year-old pupil drowns in school's swimming pool

By Gabriel Dike

The Lagos State Government has clamped down on a Montessori School, Smiley Kids

Montessori, Heritage Place Estate, Sangotedo, Lagos, following the death of a two-year-old female pupil, Miss Rapheala Ogbodo, in its swimming pool.

The state government on Friday placed the school under lock and key and began preliminary investigation to ascertain why the 2-year-old pupil of the school got drowned.

A statement by the Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Kayode Sutton, said the state government extends deep condolences to the family of the victim and reiterates its commitment to preventing future occurrences.

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Sutton disclosed that the proprietor of the yet-to-be approved school, Mr. Thomas Ayodele, Head of Nursery class, Mrs. Antonia Igbafe, and the class teacher, Helen Obhodaghe, were in police custody undergoing interrogations.

According to him, others in police custody are Mohammed Hauwa and Mohammed Habibat; both are care-givers, and Mr. Udofia Ini-Obong, the pool instructor.

He said the state government appealed to school owners and care-givers on the imperative to comply with safety regulations to prevent accidents in the school and state in general.